

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Alicia Strong, I am the Director of New Britain Racial Justice Coalition and a New Britain resident. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*. because it is important that everyone has access to paid sick leave, no matter their job or industry.

The pandemic has shown that without sick days, working-class people who are already leaving paycheck to paycheck, are forced to work through illness.

Not only is this unhealthy for the individual, but it is also a public safety risk and in the era of COVID-19 poses a risk for everyone.

Additionally, expanding the situations in which sick days can be used is also essential to accommodate the diverse family structures in the state.

In my opinion, paid sick leave is a racial justice issue because a large proportion of workers who go without sick pay are people of color. Paid sick leave should be treated as a right that helps protect all community members. I urge you to consider supporting Senate Bill No. 1178: *An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days*.

Thank you for your time,  
Alicia Strong New Britain, CT